

# Plugged sewer and rains cause residential flooding

by MARIAN  
MCMAHON

**MADISON VILLAGE** - Village residents were not exempt from flooding issues in recent weeks as was brought up at the March 7 council meeting.

Patricia and John O'Carz of East Main Street asked council for assistance with their insurance deductible when their house was flooded due to a blocked sewer line.

"We also have concerns as to whether or not, while you're repairing that, if it's going to keep backing up into our basement," she said. "Be-

cause, when they were trying to snake it out, it would go down, then we'd get another foot back in."

Administrator Alyson Moritz said they hoped it would not happen and more maintenance on the line would prevent another incident.

Patricia O'Carz said they had to vacate their home for three days it was so bad.

Moritz said she, the mayor and law director were considering their request for assistance and would soon provide an answer.

Council approved expending up to \$4,000 for cleaning 600 feet of sewer

line from 65 E. Main to Dana's Park. The job would also include videotaping.

John O'Carz asked if the line could be videotaped every six months to ensure it did not get blocked.

Mayor Robert Lee said that would be cost prohibitive.

"We are very sympathetic," he said, adding he has experienced flooded basements himself.

## In other business:

Councilman John Hamercheck reported the Utilities Committee continues to discuss the possible

transfer of its water and sewer assets to the county.

They also were in receipt of a bill from Lake County for nearly \$1,400 for under usage of water. The committee requested the county reconsider.

Councilman Duane Frager, as liaison with the Madison School Board, reported one topic being discussed is pay to play. The board is seeking input from other school districts which have sports fees.

The recreation board was also discussing budget issues and would next meet at Madison Township Hall March 24.

Councilman Don Bartlett reported on the Madison Joint Economic Development Council meeting.

"We certainly need a strong focus on economic development, promotion and we need to identify the infrastructure challenges and needs," he said. "Certainly light industry is something we would like to look forward to as we move forward."

The Lake County Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed for possible opportunities and contact made with the Lake County Port Authority.

Bartlett noted Trevor Behm had sent a letter seeking support from council for the proposed Madison Community Improvement Corporation and would like two representatives from Madison Village.

Council passed a motion of support for the MCIC.

## Legislation:

Following the third reading, council passed the following:

An ordinance amending Section 25 of Ordinance No. 10-2004, as amended, to modify the tap-in fee for sanitary sewer service for the village of Madison.

This Ordinance is to reduce sanitary sewer fees to 2006 rates for the purpose of encouraging new development.

Council passed a resolution in recognition of Max Sorenson and his service on the Madison Recreation Board.

Sorenson had served 16 years on the board, helping to bring about a number of improvements to the recreation program.

Council suspended the three readings and passed an ordinance providing for additional appropriations and adjustments to various line items for the current expenses and for the other expenditures of the village of Madison, for the period beginning in Jan. 1, to and including Dec. 31, and declaring it an emergency.

Fiscal officer Tony Long said these were just house-keeping items.

First reading was held on an ordinance amending the Ordinance No. 33-1996, as amended, to provide for the regulation of sexually oriented businesses and establishing same as a permitted use in the M-2, General Industry, Zoning District.

This legislation would enable the village to restrict such businesses. It was stressed that council was being proactive in presenting the legislation and no application has been received for such a business.

The report from the Planning Commission can be found on the village website [www.madisonvillage.org](http://www.madisonvillage.org) under Planning Commission on the main page. Anyone without Internet access may contact the administrator at village hall for a copy.

"If you are unable to attend the public hearing, but would like to submit written comments, please feel free to submit written comments either via e-mail or you can drop them off here at village hall, then they'll be read during the public hearing," Moritz said.

The public hearing will be at 7 p.m. prior to the March 21 council meeting.

First reading was held on an ordinance authorizing and directing the village administrator and fiscal officer to enter into a contract for village insurance with Glatfelter Public Practice and declaring an emergency.

First reading was held on an ordinance determining to proceed with the improvement of Water Tower Drive by repairing, sealing, chipping, surface coating, and striping said roadway, together with related improvements to the valve boxes, and such related improvements, all together with the necessary appurtenances thereto, from its intersection with state Route 528 to its terminus, and declaring an emergency.

First reading was held on an ordinance authorizing the village administrator to advertise for bids for the improvement of Water Tower Drive, as provided in Ordinance No. 8-2011 and declaring an emergency.

Bartlett suggested placing frequently asked questions and answers on the website.

Engineer Dave McCallops said it appeared the Ohio Public Works Program would be cut by about 75 percent for 2012.

There was some discussion concerning the quality of striping on the streets in the village, since it has not lasted.

Police Chief Dawn Shannon reported there would soon be a test of Reverse 911 in the village. She explained how the process worked and noted the county was now accepting information from people with unlisted phone numbers so they would also get called in emergency situations. The numbers would not be shared. There were other reasons why some people did not receive a recent call about flooding.

There will be a public hearing on an ordinance concerning sexually oriented businesses at 7 p.m. Monday, March 21, prior to the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m.